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Dr. Leidy stated that a few evenings since, in the yard attached to his residence, he for the first time had the opportunity of observing the male Tree-cricket, *Oecanthus*, while chirping. The sound, as is well known, is produced by the insect elevating its wings and vibrating them laterally; by which movement the edge of one wing-cover is rubbed upon a rasp or crepitaculum of the other. The sound is like that of the Field-cricket, *Acheta*, instead of a peculiar one as Dr. L. had supposed it to be. The note he had formerly attributed to the Tree-cricket, and with which the woods are vocal during the nights of this season of the year, is one resembling that produced by the quick and repeated snapping of the end of a quill pen or tooth-pick during a second or two of time. Upon examination Dr. L. found this sound to proceed from the male Katy-did. *Platyphyllum;* and the mechanism producing it is similar to the stridulating apparatus of the crickets, *Acheta*, *Oecanthus*.

In the male Katy-did, the crepitaculum, situated on the under surface of the dorsal portion of the wing covers, consists of a transverse, fusiform, concave ridge, provided with about fifty serratures; and is best developed in the left wing cover. The instrument which rubs against this crepitaculum is the sharp, elevated, inner edge of the dorsal portion of the wing covers, at the side of what might be considered a trilateral tambourine, which is best developed in the right wing cover. The song (if the term may be used) of the male Katy-did ordinarily is produced by the sharp edge on the inner side of the tambourine of the right wing cover, rubbing against the rasp or crepitaculum of the left wing cover.

Dr. L. continued, he had always supposed the male Katy-did produced the familiar sound after which the insect is named, and that the female was silent. This he believed was the generally received opinion; and Dr. Thad. Wm. Harris (Insects Injurious to Vegetation, page 138), remarks that at night " the joyous males begin the tell-tale call." Dr. L. added, after further investigation he was happy to be able to clear the male from the libellous imputation, and that, as was usually the case among our own race, the accusation, recrimination, and denial, of katy-did, katy-didn't, came from the female herself. The apparatus by which the female Katy-did tells her tale is totally different from that of the male, though situated as in this, in the dorsal portion of the wing covers. In the dorsal portion of the right wing cover between the marginal vein, and another about half a line from it, there are about five strong transverse veins and some smaller ones, provided upon their upper surface each with a row of strong spines bent back at right angles. All other portions of the right and the whole of the left wing cover are destitute of such spines. In the left wing cover, the corresponding position to that just described is occupied by a fine rete of veins as elsewhere; and it is the inner edge of this wing cover rubbing against the hooks of the right one, which produces the tell-tale sound of katy-did, katy-didn't.

September 1*st*, 1857.

Vice President Bridges in the Chair.

Dr. J. A. Meigs read part of a letter from Mr. J. Judson Barclay, dated Philadelphia, Aug. 21, 1857, accompanying the flattened skull presented by him this evening.

" On referring to my journal, (kept during several years residence in Jerusalem,) I find a brief mention of the circumstances attending the discovery of the very singular skull now in your possession, though I fear it will afford but little aid in assigning any other place of habitation to this unfortunate adventurer, than the subterranean *locum tenens* of his bones.

The immense quarry-cave, in which this skeleton was found, it was our good fortune to discover in 1853, and by the connivance of one of the chief dignitaries of the city, we eluded the vigilance of the Turkish authorities, and succeeded in making a thorough exploration of this hitherto unknown cavern. The skeleton of this adventurous explorer (if such he may be styled) was found in the extreme South end of the cave, 100 feet from the entrance, in a deep pit. The bones (of almost giant proportions) gave evidence of having laid in that position for many years, judging from their decayed state, which, however, is not so apparent upon the skull.

How long since he ended his career, though matter of some uncertainty, is obviously no short time, for it is evident that the bats and owls have fluttered over his bones for many long centuries ; for the entrance to this large quarry-cave is in the wall of the city, which undoubtedly has been kept carefully closed ever since the subversion of the Frank kingdom of the Holy Land, when the city walls underwent their last reparation.

The position of this cave, a little elevated above the area of the temple, enabled us to solve an enigma which has heretofore been regarded as an '*opprobium antiquorum,*'—the location of those Cyclopean stones, in their great height in the outer temple wall.

What may be his history, is a still greater matter of uncertainty. We can only conjecture that he was a pilgrim, who, on exploring the labyrinthine halls of this vast grotto, stumbled down into this deep pit, but whether Jew, Christian or Moslem, is altogether matter of query."

September 8th, 1857.

Vice-President Bridges in the Chair.

The following extract of a letter from Dr. D. B. McCartee, of Ningpo, China, dated New York, Sept. 3d, 1857, was read :

"I forward a specimen of the 'insect wax' of China. This was said by the naturalists attached to Sir George Staunton's embassy to be the product of the larva of the *Cicada limbata*, and that 'the fly' which 'was observed by Staunton on the coast of Cochin China has curious pectinated appendages on the back, and the whole insect is covered with a white powder, which is imparted to the stems of the plants it inhabits.' This is not the case with the wax of which a specimen is sent. It is the product of a very small insect, a species of *Coccus*. as far as I could make it out. It is deposited near Ningpo on the twigs and smaller branches of a species of *ash*, in granules, giving the twig the appearance of white coral. It is not generally known that it is to be found in the vicinity of Ningpo ; and it was only after a search of two years that I succeeded in finding it. * * * * * I think Sir George Staunton was deceived by the fact that the larva of a species of *Cicada* corresponding to his description is found upon the same tree, as I myself saw."

Dr. Morris remarked that among the fishes brought from Panama by Dr. Ruschenberger, were found the following Atlantic species which were not previously known to exist in the Pacific : *Exocetus acutus, Pristipoma rodo, Ephippus faber.*